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THE
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
TO THE
DEBEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

1938.

BY

CHARLES M. WHITEFORD, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

THE
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
TO THE
DEBEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

From the 1st January, 1938, to the 31st December, 1938.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Herewith my Report for the Year 1938.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY
DURING 1938.

Medical Officer of Health :

DR. C. M. WHITEFORD, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.,
(succeeded DR. W. W. CRAWFORD, L.R.C.S., &c.,
on 19th April, 1938).

Sanitary Inspector : D. JENKINSON, M. INST. M., & CY. E.,
CERT. R.S.I.

Second Sanitary Inspector :

R. T. W. BEDFORD, CERT. R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Area (in acres) 109,974

Estimated Population (Registrar General) for 1938 24,170
an increase of 100 from 1937.

Number of Inhabited Houses at the end of 1938 ... 7,200
an increase of 100 from 1937.

The Rateable Value is £105,137, and the estimated
sum represented by a Penny Rate is £423, as
compared with £405 in 1937.

THE SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The County as a Territorial District is Agricultural, and the Deben Rural District conforms to that category, with some approach to Urbanisation near to the three larger centres—Ipswich, Felixstowe, and Woodbridge.

The Parishes included in the Deben Rural District are sixty-six, as under :—

Alderton, Bawdsey, Bealings Great, Bealings Little, Blaxhall, Boulge, Boyton, Bredfield, Brightwell, Bromeswell, Buckle-sham, Burgh, Butley, Campsea Ashe, Capel St. Andrew, Charsfield, Chillesford, Clopton, Cretingham, Culpho, Dalling-hoo, Dallinghoo Wield, Debach, Eyke, Falkenham, Foxhall, Gedgrave, Grundisburgh, Hasketon, Havergate Island, Hemley, Hollesley, Hoo, Iken, Kesgrave, Kirton, Letheringham, Levington, Martlesham, Melton, Moneuden, Nacton, New-bourne, Orford, Otley, Pettistree, Playford, Purdis Farm, Ramsholt, Rendlesham, Rushmere, Shottisham, Stratton Hall, Sudbourne, Sutton, Swilland, Trimley St. Martin, Trimley St. Mary, Tuddenham, Tunstall, Ufford, Waldringfield, Wantisden, Westerfield, Wickham Market and Witnesham.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The figures herewith are calculated on the Registrar General's estimated population for the year 1938, *viz.*, 24,170,

LIVE BIRTHS.

	TOTAL	MALES	FEMALES
Legitimate	... 315	153	162
Illegitimate	... 14	5	9
Total	<u>329</u>	<u>158</u>	<u>171</u>

This gives a Birth Rate of 13·6 per 1,000 population compared with 14·4 in 1937; the corresponding figure for England and Wales is 15·1.

STILL BIRTHS.

The total number of Still Births is 15 ;—6 males and 8 females legitimate ; and 1 female illegitimate.

This gives a rate of 43·6 per 1,000 births. The rate per 1,000 population is 0·62, that for England and Wales being 0·60.

DEATHS.

Total—316. Males—155. Females—161.

This gives a Death Rate, per 1,000 estimated population, of 13·8. The corresponding figure for all England and Wales is 11·6.

A proportion of 157 out of the total 316 deaths, roughly 50%, occurred in Public Institutions, as follows :—

St. Audry's Hospital	...	...	...	84
Isolation Hospital	...	...	...	4
Almshouses	...	...	...	1
Sanatoria	...	...	...	4
Hospitals	...	...	...	42
Poor Law Infirmaries	...	...	...	15
Nursing Homes	...	...	...	7
				Total 157

An analysis of ages at which death occurred gives the following interesting figures :—

At age 90 years and over	...	...	6
At age 80 years and over	...	...	88
At age 70 years and over	...	...	110

This gives a total of 204 dying at ages beyond 70, at roughly 64% of the total number of deaths in the District.

Deaths of women dying in or in consequence of child birth :

Puerperal Sepsis	1	Rate per 1,000 total births, 2·9
Other Puerperal Causes ...	...	0
Total	1		

M. F.
Total Deaths of Infants in Area 6 8 = 14 all legitimate.

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births 42·5 (England and Wales 53).

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 44·4.

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births Nil.

		M.	F.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	...	25	25
,, Measles (all ages) ...	...	Nil	
,, Whooping Cough (all ages)...		Nil	
,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1	—	

Herewith an extended tabulation of the causes of death, in cases occurring in 1938.

		M.	F.
Aneurysm	...	1	1
Appendicitis	...	0	1
Bronchitis	...	0	4
Cancer	...	25	25
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	13	15
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	1	0
Other Liver Disorders	...	1	4
Congenital Causes	...	5	7
Diabetes	...	1	2
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	1	0
Heart Disease	...	50	52
Other Circulatory Disorders	...	9	13
Influenza	...	0	1
Nephritis	...	2	1
Digestive Disorders	...	3	4
Pneumonia	...	2	4
Other Respiratory Disorders	...	1	3
Puerperal Sepsis	...	0	1
Senility	...	7	6
Suicide	...	2	1
Other Violence	...	9	3
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	8	1
Tuberculosis—other forms	...	1	0
Other Defined Causes	...	13	12
Totals	<u>155</u>	<u>161</u>	

TUBERCULOSIS.

An analysis of New Cases of Tuberculous disease, and of Deaths from Tuberculosis is appended :—

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
0	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	—
10	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
15	—	2	1	—	1	—	—	—
20	1	1	—	2	—	—	—	—
25	2	4	—	—	1	1	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
55	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65	2	—	—	—	2	—	1	—
upwards								
Totals	8	9	2	5	8	1	1	—

There were no non-notified cases of Tuberculosis among the deaths, thus giving 100% efficiency of notification in the District.

During the year there were removed from the Tuberculosis Register 23 cases, for the reasons hereunder :—

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		TOTAL
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Diagnosis not established				1	1
Removed to other Districts	1	4	3	2	10
Cured	... ... ...	2 4	4	2	12
Cases of Tuberculosis from other Districts coming into the Area, were	... 4	3	—	3	10

No infectious disease approached epidemic proportions during 1938. The solitary case of Enteric Fever occurred at a Mental Hospital where the patient was isolated and nursed.

The two cases of Anterior Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis) occurred during August when the disease was appearing at points widely scattered all over England. They both resided in the same village, but no further cases were diagnosed.

**COST OF MAINTENANCE OF INFECTIOUS
DISEASE CASES SENT TO
IPSWICH BOROUGH ISOLATION HOSPITAL.**

The figure for 1938 was £276 5s., as compared with £504 3s. 11d. for 1937.

**GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
IN THE AREA.**

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The arrangements are similar to those of former years—the East Suffolk County Council Laboratory at Ipswich undertakes all examination or analysis of clinical specimens, water, milk, and foods.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

For (a) Infectious Diseases—Ipswich Corporation Ambulance.

(b) Non-Infectious diseases and accidents, etc.—East Suffolk and Ipswich Hospital Ambulance; and St. John's Ambulance Association, Ipswich.

These arrangements have been found to be adequate for the population of the District, which is scattered and, under normal conditions, enjoys a remarkable freedom from epidemic visitations.

Under national emergency conditions however, with a possible influx of evacuees from crowded city areas, many of them carriers of infectious disease organisms, we may find our unseeded population experiencing epidemics, e.g., Diphtheria. This contingency will call for appropriate emergency measures (additional isolation facilities, ambulance services, and possibly prophylactic immunisation of our vulnerable population.)

NURSING IN THE HOME.

The District Nursing Associations work in conjunction with the County Council.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

The only Centre is the Welfare Clinic in the Woodbridge Urban District.

HOSPITALS.

(a) INFECTIOUS DISEASES. Cases of Infectious Disease who require institutional treatment are admitted to Ipswich Isolation Hospital, under an agreement with the Borough Council.

(b) TUBERCULOSIS. Pulmonary cases are hospitalised at the East Suffolk County Council's Hospital at Normanston; and at the Ipswich Borough Isolation Hospital. Non-Pulmonary cases are treated at the East Suffolk and Ipswich Hospital.

MATERNITY and NURSING HOMES.

There is one Nursing Home in the area, in the Parish of Melton.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

The County Council is the Authority for undertaking treatment of pathological conditions in the pregnant woman.

Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants, and Homeless Children.

The Poor Law Institution, Ipswich.

Institutional Provision for the Care of Mental Defectives.

This is undertaken by the Public Assistance Committee in collaboration with the County Council.

OTHER SERVICES.

Health Visitors, Child Life Protection, Orthopædic and Dental Treatment, Prevention of Blindness, etc., and School Medical Inspection are all under the ægis of the County Medical Officer.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

LOCAL ACTS, SPECIAL LOCAL ORDERS, GENERAL ADOPTIVE ACTS AND BYE-LAWS RELATING TO PUBLIC HEALTH IN FORCE IN THE AREA.

22nd July, 1923. Bye-Laws in respect of Slaughter Houses (humane killer).

1925. Public Health Act, 1925—partly in force, partly adopted.

June, 1925. Bye-Laws in respect of New Buildings.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.

PUBLIC SUPPLIES. There are several sources of public water in the Deben area.

The following parishes are supplied with water from the Council's Works at Tuddenham :— Rushmere St. Andrew, Kesgrave, Purdis Farm, Martlesham (part of).

Part of Melton on the outskirts of Woodbridge, is supplied by the Woodbridge Water Company. And parts of Trimley St. Martin and St. Mary, and the Parish of Kirton, are supplied by the Felixstowe Water Company.

Herewith are the actual figures :—

403 houses in Rushmere St. Andrew are supplied by			
Deben R.D.C.			
332	,	Kesgrave	" "
48	,	Purdis Farm	" "
12	,	Martlesham	" "
262	,	Melton	are supplied by Woodbridge Water Co.
124	,	Trimley St. Martin	by Felixstowe Water Co.
181	,	Trimley St. Mary	" " "
40	,	Kirton	" " "
1	,	Newbourne	" " "

The Combined Regional Water Scheme was well under way during 1938. Water is distributed from the Tuddenham collecting ground *via* a Water Tower, to the Parishes of Tuddenham, Witnesham, Swilland, Otley, Grundisburgh, Burgh, Clopton, Debach, Boulge, Bredfield, Hasketon, Dallinghoo, Pettistree, Wickham Market, and Ufford. It is anticipated that the Main Water will be available in these parishes in June, 1939.

The Parts of the Area not yet served by the Water Mains are supplied by wells.

Regularly, there are samples taken of Water, both Main and Well supply, for bacteriological and chemical analysis.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Trimley sewerage scheme is practically completed and existing W.C.'s are rapidly being connected up with the sewers; all new buildings being connected with the sewers to conform to the by-laws.

The scheme for Wickham Market has not yet been commenced, but it is hoped a start will be made during 1939.

The preparation of a scheme for Melton is nearing completion.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Action was taken in cases where gross pollution of streams occurred through discharge of crude sewage.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There were 134 conversions from the conservancy system during 1938. New houses have water closets, sewage being dealt with by the septic tank system except in the areas where sewers have been laid down.

Number of Earth Closets	...	...	5043
Number of Water Closets	...	...	1435

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

During the year a start was made with refuse collection and the following parishes were given a weekly collection :— Melton, Purdis Farm, Orford, Trimley St. Mary, Trimley St. Martin, and Rushmere St. Andrew.

A further vehicle has been ordered for early delivery in 1939, and the scheme will then be extended to a further 18 parishes.

Household refuse is dealt with by the system of controlled tipping, with very satisfactory results, both from financial and sanitary view points.

A 750-gallon capacity Cesspool Emptier has been ordered for delivery early in 1939, and it is anticipated that this machine will deal with the whole of the District.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

Farms and Dairies in the area are periodically inspected in connection with the Milk in Schools Scheme, and under the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1925.

On inspection, most of the premises are found to be satisfactory as regards cleanliness, and the method of production. Samples of Milk are now taken by the Veterinary Inspector of the County Council for examination for the presence of tubercle bacilli.

Premises from which an unsatisfactory sample of milk has been obtained are visited and the sanitary condition of the buildings as well as the methods of milk production are gone into with the responsible manager: This always results in improvement of samples taken at a later date.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Slaughter-Houses, Butchers' Shops and Bake-Houses are inspected at regular intervals. Meat inspection is also carried

out in accordance with the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

59 visits were made to Slaughter-houses, and carcases of 159 Pigs and 1 Beast were inspected.

The following Meat was found to be diseased and was ordered to be destroyed.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. Killed (if known) ...	—	—	—	—	—
No. Inspected	1	—	—	—	159
All Diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole Carcasses Condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the No. inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole Carcasses Condemned	—	—	—	—	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	23
Percentage of the No. inspected affected with Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	15%

ADULTERATION, &c.

Does not apply.

CHEMICAL and BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD—

The County Council, as Food & Drugs Authority, is responsible for this, and carry out analysis at the County Laboratory.

NUTRITION.

There is very little unemployment, and, among the school population at least, there are no evidences of malnutrition to any degree. Mothers are advised regarding diet at the schools' medical inspection.

SHELL-FISH.

There are no shell-fish beds or layings in the District.

SHOPS.

Action was taken during the year, under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature in shops and to sanitary conveniences.

CAMPING SITES.

There are no licensed camping sites in the Deben area.

One site, privately owned (by a Rotary Club), is situated at a considerable distance from any collection of houses at a point about equidistant from Martlesham, Waldringfield, and Newbourne villages.

There are good sanitary arrangements—concrete floored dry closets in three groups of four closets at the boundaries of the site. In the Club House there are chemical closets.

Water is on tap from a water tower supplied by pump from a well.

The maximum number of campers at any one time is estimated at sixty.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was found necessary.

SWIMMING BATHS and POOLS.

There is one public swimming pool in the Rural District, in connection with a Road House Tea-room. Water is pumped from the River Finn, a stream which is actually used by the villagers for domestic water. Twice weekly the bath is drained and scrubbed out, then being refilled with river water.

Originally no active sterilising procedure was adopted, but the Lessee has been instructed in the use of a chlorine dominative and copper sulphate as means towards cleanliness and safety, and he has co-operated most willingly in these measures.

ERADICATION of BED BUGS.

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| (1) (a) No. of Council Houses— | i found to be infested | One | |
| | ii disinfested | ... | One |
| (b) No. of other Houses— | i found to be infested | Two | |
| | ii disinfested | ... | Two |
| (2) Methods employed for freeing infested houses from bed bugs :— | Fumigation by Cyanide. | | |
| (3) | Methods employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council Houses :— | A preliminary inspection is made by the Sanitary Inspector. | |
| (4) | Any necessary work of disinfection is carried out by a contractor. | | |
| (5) | Measures taken by way of supervision or education of tenants to prevent infestation or re-infestation after cleansing :— | | |

On inspection of premises, the Sanitary Inspector gives information as to how to detect and prevent infestation.

SCHOOLS.

The adequacy of the general sanitation and the water supply of schools in the area are reported upon at the regular

School Medical Inspections. Also, there are samples of the water taken at intervals for bacteriological and chemical analysis.

The County Medical Officer, as School Medical Officer, has duplicates of all reports from Head Teachers as to infectious diseases among school children. During 1938 there were no closures in the Deben area.

1. INSPECTION of DWELLING-HOUSES during the year.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	390
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose				740
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	75
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose				162
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	16
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	12

2. REMEDY of DEFECTS during the Year without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers...	10
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----	-----	----

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS during the Year.

A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... | Nil. |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :— | |
| (a) By Owners | Nil. |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners | Nil. |

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 46 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :— | |
| (a) By Owners | 46 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners | Nil. |

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... | 2 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... | 6 |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Informal Notices ... | 9 |

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... | Nil. |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil.
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E.—Proceedings under Section 25 and 26 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) No. of Clearance Areas made	4
(2) No. of Houses in above Areas	...	...	11
(3) No. of Persons dwelling therein	...	...	29
(4) No. of Houses demolished in pursuance of Clearance Orders	...	...	17
(5) No. of Houses provided for re-housing displaced persons under Clearance Orders and Demolition Orders	...	...	20
(6) No. of Persons accommodation provided for			85

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936—Part IV.—OVERCROWDING.

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	86
(ii) Number of Families dwelling therein	...			86
(iii) Number of Persons dwelling therein	...			356
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ...	...	...	...	Nil.
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	12
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases				81

DWELLING-HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE
YEAR 1938.

Parish in which erected		Houses	Bungalows	Total Dwellings
Alderton	...	...	—	1
Bealings Little	...	...	2	2
Bredfield	...	...	—	1
Bromeswell	...	...	—	1
Grundisburgh	...	...	1	1
Hollesley	...	...	1	1
Kesgrave	...	...	—	9
Kirton	...	...	1	—
Martlesham	...	...	8	2
Melton	...	...	2	—
Nacton	...	...	3	1
Orford	...	...	1	—
Otley	...	...	1	—
Pettistree	...	...	—	1
Purdis Farm	...	...	1	1
Rushmere St. Andrew	...	1	2	3
Trimley St. Martin	...	8	1	9
Trimley St. Mary	...	4	—	4
Waldringfield	...	...	1	1
Witnesham	...	...	—	1
Totals	...	35	23	58

(NOTE:— these figures do not include Council Houses erected by the Council).

ADDITIONS TO DWELLING-HOUSES DURING
THE YEAR 1938.

Parish in which Dwelling-House is situate.		Additions to Houses.	Additions to Bungalows.	Total Additions.
	...	1	2	3
Bealings Little ...	...	1	—	1
Bredfield	...	3	—	3
Bromeswell	...	4	—	4
Campsea Ashe	...	1	—	1
Clopton	...	1	—	1
Culpho	...	1	—	1
Hasketon	...	1	—	1
Hollesley	...	—	1	1
Kesgrave	...	—	1	1
Martlesham	...	3	1	4
Melton	...	1	—	1
Orford	...	—	1	1
Otley	...	1	—	1
Rushmere St. Andrew	...	1	—	1
Sudbourne	...	1	—	1
Sutton	...	1	—	1
Ufford	...	1	—	1
Waldringfield	...	1	1	2
Wickham Market	...	3	—	3
Witnesham	...	2	—	2
Total Additions	...	<u>27</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>34</u>

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORY ACTS IN
WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

During the year the following visits of Inspection were made under Section 132 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901 :—

Visits to Factories	...	...	...	18
Visits to Bakehouses	...	...	...	12

No action was found necessary.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT ON THE SANITARY WORK
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1938.

Number of Complaints received	...	...	...	44
," Houses and premises inspected	...	...	850	
," Re-inspections ...	...	...	495	
," Drains laid to existing houses	...	...	12	
," Defective drains condemned	...	...	Nil	
," Houses disinfected	...	...	71	
," Earth closets provided to existing houses	...	...	Nil	
," Water closets provided to existing houses	...	...	12	
," Privies converted to pail closets	...	...	2	
," Drinking water wells condemned	...	...	Nil	
," Slaughter-houses inspections	...	...	59	
," Bakehouses inspections ...	...	...	12	
," Factories and Workshops inspected	...	...	18	
," Defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	...	...	10	
," Accumulations of filth removed ...	...	...	7	
," Samples of Milk taken for examination for tubercle bacilli	...	...	Nil	
," Samples of Water taken for Analysis	...	...	59	

(Signed) D. JENKINSON, Sanitary Inspector.
